

POLITICAL ADVERTISING

Citizens Attention!

The Drys say they wish to conduct this campaign upon the economic rather than upon the moral question. We agree with them in that we believe from a political standpoint it is an economic question, and from that standpoint we wish to offer you the following, from which you can draw your own conclusions:

Can Your Taxes Be Raised?

Until recently the basis of assessed valuation of real estate was one-fifth of the fair cash value. Later the basis was changed to from one-fifth to one-third of the fair cash value, thus increasing the assessed valuation two-thirds, or sixty-six and two-thirds per cent, at the same time the rate of tax for general municipal purposes was reduced from two per cent or two dollars per hundred, of assessed valuation to one and two-tenths per cent or one dollar and twenty cents on a hundred dollars valuation. This was done in order that Chicago and some other cities could increase their bonded indebtedness as under the constitution cities could not issue bonds for more than five per cent of their assessed valuation.

It is well known to all familiar with the method of assessing, that the assessors have continued to make the assessment on one-fifth the value thus a home valued at three thousand dollars is assessed at six hundred dollars, and pays a tax of about forty-five dollars. If conditions demand and the assessor was so inclined he could without any violation of his conscience, or the law assess said property at one-third the value or one thousand dollars, which would make the tax about seventy-five dollars. (After Rockford voted dry the assessor, who happened to be a dry, did this, increasing the assessed valuation of property five million dollars.

Another Method

Your taxes can be increased by another method. In 1917 the legislature enacted a law giving cities the right to increase the rate of taxation

from one two-tenths per cent or one dollar and twenty cents per hundred assessed valuation to any amount or rate they deem necessary to operate the municipality by the annual passage of an appropriation ordinance and the submission of same to the voters of the city for their ratification. Now if the drys succeed in depriving the city of its present revenue, amounting to almost \$100,000.00 from rental and wholesale liquor dealers by voting the town dry, doesn't it necessarily follow the city will be the loser, and that this loss will have to be made up in some manner. Therefore if the drys are strong enough to vote the town dry are they not strong enough to ratify any appropriation ordinance submitted to the public, making up this loss by increased taxation?

If you are intending to vote "Yes" on the wet and dry proposition, are you ready and prepared to vote "yes" on an appropriation ordinance increasing your taxes, which must of necessity follow. (State Law 1917) as this city must make up this loss in some manner.

In 1917 Rock Island received from licenses issued to liquor dealers \$95,400.00, and it is safe to estimate that the taxes received by the city from the buildings occupied by these one hundred and forty dealers, amounted to five or six thousand dollars, thus the city received directly from licenses and taxes about One Hundred and One Thousand Dollars, and from all other property the total tax receipts of the city was approximately One Hundred and Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars.

The following appropriations were made for the year 1917 in these departments:

Fire Department	\$ 39,000.00
Police Department	34,000.00
Light Fund	28,000.00
Total	\$101,000.00

It will be seen that the revenues of the liquor dealers practically pays the expense of these three important departments. If the city is voted dry, and this revenue cut off, where will the money come from to maintain these departments? If taxes are raised? Is that to vote "YES" means increased taxation and to vote "NO" means against increased taxation.

THINK IT OVER!

Shall This City Become
Anti-Saloon Story?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Municipal League of Rock Island